

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document processing apparatus comprising:

document obtaining means for obtaining a document  
written in a predetermined markup language from a  
5 designated source from which the document is to be  
obtained;

rule selecting means for selecting a rule defining  
voice input/output contents from a plurality of  
predetermined rules;

10 document analyzing means for analyzing a  
designated range of the document obtained by said  
document obtaining means based on the rule selected by  
said rule selecting means to fetch voice output  
contents, voice input candidates, and designation  
15 information for designating a next processing object  
corresponding to each voice input candidate;

voice outputting means for voice-outputting the  
voice output contents fetched by said document  
analyzing means;

20 voice recognizing means for voice-recognizing the  
voice input by the user; and

controlling means for checking the result of  
recognition by said voice recognizing means against the  
input candidates fetched by said document analyzing  
25 means to control obtainment of a new document by said  
document obtaining means or next analysis by said  
document analyzing means based on designation

information corresponding to the input candidate  
matching the recognition result.

2. The document processing apparatus according to  
5 claim 1, wherein said rule selecting means selects a  
rule based on rule identification information described  
in the document obtained by said document obtaining  
means.

10 3. The document processing apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said rule identification information  
is a predetermined attribute value of a predetermined  
tag.

15 4. The document processing apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein said rule selecting means selects a  
predetermined rule if the rule identification  
information is not described in the obtained document.

20 5. The document processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said document analyzing means fetches  
as said designation information a source from which a  
next document is obtained.

25 6. The document processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said document analyzing means fetches  
an analyzed range of a next document as said

designation information.

7. The document processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rule selecting means selects a  
5 rule based on instructions from a user.

8. The document processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said rule selecting means gives a  
higher priority to predetermined one of the rule based  
10 on said user's instructions and the rule based on the rule identification information described in the document obtained by said document obtaining means to select a rule.

9. The document processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of rules includes a  
rule which defines a predetermined attribute value of a  
predetermined tag as voice output contents, and  
contents surrounded by predetermined second tags as  
15 input candidates, in said document.

10. The document processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein in said rule, if said recognition  
result matches an input candidate, contents ranging  
25 from the contents surrounded by said second predetermined tags which correspond to the input candidate up to a third predetermined tag are defined

as next voice output contents, and an anchor in the voice output contents is defined as a next input candidate.

5           11. The document processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of rules includes a rule which defines contents ranging from the head of said document to a predetermined tag as voice output contents, and an anchor in the voice output contents as  
10           an input candidate.

            12. The document processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said voice input and voice output are performed through a telephone line.

15

            13. A document processing method comprising:  
            a document obtaining step of obtaining a document written in a predetermined markup language from a designated source from which the document is to be  
20           obtained;

            a rule selecting step of selecting a rule defining voice input/output contents from a plurality of predetermined rules;

            a document analyzing step of analyzing a  
25           designated range of the document obtained in said document obtaining step based on the rule selected in said rule selecting step to fetch voice output

contents, voice input candidates, and designation information for designating a next processing object corresponding to each voice input candidate;

5 a voice outputting step of voice-outputting the voice output contents fetched in said document analyzing step;

a voice recognizing step of voice-recognizing the voice input from the user; and

10 a controlling step of checking the result of recognition by said voice recognizing step against the input candidates fetched in said document analyzing step to control obtainment of a new document by said document obtaining step or next analysis by said document analyzing step based on designation  
15 information corresponding to the input candidate matching the recognition result.

14. A computer-executable program for controlling a computer to perform document processing, said program  
20 comprising codes for causing the computer to perform:

a document obtaining step of obtaining a document written in a predetermined markup language from a designated source from which the document is to be obtained;

25 a rule selecting step of selecting a rule defining voice input/output contents from a plurality of predetermined rules;

a document analyzing step of analyzing a  
designated range of the document obtained in said  
document obtaining step based on the rule selected in  
said rule selecting step to fetch voice output  
5 contents, voice input candidates, and designation  
information for designating a next processing object  
corresponding to each voice input candidate;

a voice outputting step of voice-outputting the  
voice output contents fetched in said document  
10 analyzing step;

a voice recognizing step of voice-recognizing the  
voice input from the user; and

a controlling step of checking the result of  
recognition by said voice recognizing step against the  
15 input candidates fetched in said document analyzing  
step to control obtainment of a new document by said  
document obtaining step or next analysis by said  
document analyzing step based on designation  
information corresponding to the input candidate  
20 matching the recognition result.

15. A computer-readable storage medium for  
storing the program according to claim 14.